

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 04813 241647Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION ONE OF TWO BUCHAREST 4813

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, RO, UK

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S VISIT VIEWED BY
BRITISH HERE AS USEFUL AND IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVED
RELATIONS ALTHOUGH NOT IN ITSELF A MAJOR DEPARTURE. FOUR
DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED: LONG-TERM COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AGREE-
MENT ON PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, DOUBLE TAXATION
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 04813 241647Z

AGREEMENT AND JOINT DECLARATION. IN BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

TWO SIDES REACHED ACCORD ON SKELETON OF BONDS SETTLEMENT AND ON EXTENSION OF ECGD CREDITS TO ROMANIA. DRAFTING OF JOINT DECLARATION SAW BATTLE FOR CSCE HUMAN-CONTACTS LANGUAGE. CHIEF ROMANIAN PREOCCUPATIONS WERE SOVIET HEGEMONY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. SEPTEMBER 16-18 PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON PAID FIRST VISIT OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TO ROMANIA SINCE WORLD WAR II (AND PERHAPS EVER). FOLLOWING ACCOUNT IS BASED ON BRIEFING OF NATO AMBASSADORS ON RESULTS OF VISIT BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

3. WILSON/CEAUSESCU HEAD-TO-HEAD TALKS
CONTRARY TO BRITISH FEARS THAT WILSON'S TIME WITH CEAUSESCU MIGHT BE INSUFFICIENT, TWO LEADERS MET TWICE FOR TOTAL OF 3 1/2 HOURS ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY WITH ONLY THEIR CLOSEST ADVISORS (PRIVATE SECRETARY PATRICK WRIGHT WAS SOLE UK REP ASIDE FROM PM). CANDID DISCUSSIONS RANGED OVER FOLLOWING TOPICS:

A. ROMANIAN FLOODS - WILSON REFERRED TO LOSSES ROMANIA HAD INCURRED IN JULY FLOODS. CEAUSESCU TOOK LINE THAT FLOODS WERE NOW FORGOTTEN AND GOR WAS GETTING ON WITH REBUILDING. BRITISH SEEMED CLEAR THAT ROMANIANS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THEY HAVE WRUNG OUT OF FLOOD SITUATION WHAT THEY CAN.

B. CSCE DEBATE. CEAUSESCU REPEATED FAMILIAR REFRAIN THAT

HELSINKI REPRESENTED MERELY A BEGINNING AND THAT GREAT DEAL MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE TO IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS. AMONG HELSINKI DECISIONS CEAUSESCU FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO SELECT THOSE PROVISIONS VITAL FOR PEACE AND SECURITY. FOCUS, ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN PRESIDENT, SHOULD CENTER ON MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ISSUES; IMPLEMENTATION OTHER PARTS OF CSCE WOULD FOLLOW UPON THOSE. CEAUSESCU OPINED THAT SINCE HELSINKI CONFERENCE NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS HAD OCCURRED, DISMISSING FRG ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY MANEUVERS AS BEING INSIGNIFICANT SINCE MANEUVERS WOULD HAVE BECOME KNOWN ANYWAY.

C. SOVIET POLICY - SOVIETS WERE, IN CEAUSESCU'S VIEW, CONCENTRATING ON NEXT YEAR'S PARTY CONGRESS AS WELL AS GETTING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OUT OF US. CEAUSESCU REFERRED TO SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUCHAR 04813 241647Z

EFFORTS TO INCREASE INTEGRATION WITHIN CEMA BUT OMITTED ANY MENTION OF ECPC. IN RESPONSE TO WILSON INQUIRY ABOUT EFFECT OF ANY CHANGE IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP, CEAUSESCU REPLIED, APPARENTLY REFERRING TO ROMANIA, THAT THINGS COULDN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN THEY ARE. ENLARGING SOMEWHAT, CEAUSESCU OBSERVED THAT INSTITUTIONALIZATION WAS TAKING HOLD IN THE USSR WITH THE RESULT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO LARGE CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY. IN WHAT WAS OBLIQUE AND UNEXPLAINED REFERENCE CEAUSESCU SAID

ROMANIA WOULD SEEM TO GET ADJUSTMENTS IN SOVIET ATTITUDES WHICH WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE "INTERNAL" IMPACT IN ROMANIA.

D. USSR/CHINESE RELATIONS - ALTHOUGH HE FELT THAT TENSIONS HAD ACCELERATED LATELY, CEAUSESCU FELT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHINESE.

E. WESTERN EUROPE - CEAUSESCU ASSERTED THAT BALANCE OF FORCES HAD CHANGED IN EUROPE IN LAST 6 TO 7 YEARS. CONTINUING EC CONSOLIDATION HE VIEWED AS "REASSURING FACTOR". BRITISH MEMBERSHIP WAS JUDGED TO STRENGTHEN EC AND WAS POSITIVE STEP.

F. PORTUGAL/SPAIN - TO WILSON'S REMARK THAT THERE WAS NOW MUCH BETTER HOPE THAT PORTUGUESE PEOPLE COULD WORK OUT THEIR OWN CHOICE IN DEMOCRATIC CONTEXT, CEAUSESCU RESPONDED THAT PEOPLE GOT TOO EXCITED ABOUT PORTUGAL. WHAT HAPPENED WAS INEVITABLE IN LIGHT OF 50 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP. THIS COULD NOT

BE AVOIDED IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO LIQUIDATE PROBLEMS OF PAST. ONE OF CURRENT COMPLICATIONS WAS LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN AND DISUNITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES. ROMANIA, CEAUSESCU OBSERVED, HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT, MILITARY LEADERS, AND COMMUNIST PARTY (IN THAT ORDER). (LATTER TOO DOGMATIC, HOWEVER.) THESE RELATIONS WOULD BE UTILIZED TO IMPART SOME OF ROMANIA'S EXPERIENCE (DURING VISIT OF CEAUSESCU'S CHIEF FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR, STEFAN ANDREI'S VISIT). SITUATION IN PORTUGAL LIKELY TO BE REPEATED LATER ON IN SPAIN. CEAUSESCU THOUGHT DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN MOVED TOO SLOWLY. SPANIARDS WERE TOO LEGALISTIC EVEN THINKING THEY COULD REMOVE FRANCO WITH HIS AGREEMENT.

G. CYPRUS - REPEATING FAMILIAR LINE, CEAUSESCU STATED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 BUCAR 04813 241647Z

THAT WAS WAS NEEDED NOW WAS MAJOR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SOLUTION, ESPECIALLY ON OIL RIGHTS IN AEGEAN. CYPRUS COULD BE RESOLVED, HE FELT, BY DIRECT GREEK/TURKISH DISCUSSIONS.

H. CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SPEAKING OFF RECORD, CEAUSESCU ALLEGED THAT WEST HAD BEEN "VERY TAME" IN 1968.

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